

Math 121 Class notes Fall 2024

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Last updated: August 19, 2024

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1.1: Solutions of Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable

Definition.

A **function** f is a special relation between x and y such that each input x results in *at most* one y . The symbol $f(x)$ is read “ f of x ” and is called the **value of f at x**

Example. Let $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + x$. Evaluate the following:

$$f(1)$$

$$f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$f(-2)$$

$$f(0)$$

$$f(f(x))$$

Composite Functions:

Let f and g be functions of x . Then, the **composite functions** g of f (denoted $g \circ f$) and f of g (denoted $f \circ g$) are defined as:

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$$

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$$

Example. Let $g(x) = x - 1$. Find:

$$(g \circ f)(x)$$

$$(f \circ g)(x)$$

Operations with Functions:

Let f and g be functions of x and define the following:

Sum	$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$
Difference	$(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$
Product	$(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$
Quotient	$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ if $g(x) \neq 0$

Definition.

An **expression** is a meaningful string of numbers, variables and operations:

$$3x - 2$$

An **equation** is a statement that two quantities or algebraic expressions are equal:

$$3x - 2 = 7$$

A **solution** is a value of the variable that makes the equation true:

$$3(3) - 2 = 7$$

$$9 - 2 = 7$$

$$7 = 7$$

A **solution set** is the set of ALL possible solutions of an equation:

$3x - 2 = 7$ only has the solution $x = 3$,

$2(x - 1) = 2x - 2$ is true for all possible values of x .

Properties of Equality:

Substitution Property: The equation formed by substituting one expression for an equal expression is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{aligned}3(x - 3) - \frac{1}{2}(4x - 18) &= 4 \\3x - 9 - 2x + 9 &= 4 \\x &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Addition Property: The equation formed by adding the same quantity to both sides of an equation is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{array}{ll}x - 4 = 6 & x + 5 = 12 \\x - 4 + 4 = 6 + 4 & x + 5 + (-5) = 12 + (-5) \\x = 10 & x = 7\end{array}$$

Multiplication Property: The equation formed by multiplying both sides of an equation by the same *nonzero* quantity is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\frac{1}{3}x = 6 & 5x = 20 \\3\left(\frac{1}{3}x\right) = 3(6) & \frac{5x}{5} = \frac{20}{5} \\x = 18 & x = 4\end{array}$$

Solving a linear equation:

Using the properties of equality above, we can solve any linear equation in 1 variable:

Example. Solve $\frac{3x}{4} + 3 = \frac{x-1}{3}$

1. Eliminate fractions:

$$12\left(\frac{3x}{4} + 3\right) = 12\left(\frac{x-1}{3}\right)$$

2. Remove/evaluate parenthesis:

$$9x + 36 = 4x - 4$$

3. Use addition property to isolate the variable to one side:

$$9x + 36 \text{--} 36 \text{--} 4x = 4x - 4 \text{--} 36 \text{--} 4x$$

4. Use multiplication property to isolate variable:

$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{-40}{5}$$

5. Verify solution via substitution:

$$\underbrace{\frac{3(-8)}{4} + 3}_{-6 + 3 = -3} \stackrel{?}{=} \underbrace{\frac{(-8) - 1}{3}}_{\frac{-9}{3} = -3}$$

Example. Solve the following:

$$\frac{3x+1}{2} = \frac{x}{3} - 3$$

$$\frac{2x-1}{x-3} = 4 + \frac{5}{x-3}$$

Example. Solve $-2x + 6y = 4$ for y



Example. Suppose that the relationship between a firm's profit, P , and the number of items sold, x , can be described by the equation

$$5x - 4P = 1200$$

a) How many units must be produced and sold for the firm to make a profit of \$150?

b) Solve this equation for P in terms of x . Then, find the profit when 240 units are sold.

Definition.

An **inequality** is a statement that one quantity is greater than (or less than) another quantity.

Properties of Inequalities

Substitution Property: The inequality formed by substituting one expression for an equal expression is equivalent to the original inequality:

$$5x - 4x + 2 < 6$$

$$x < 4 \Rightarrow \text{The solution set is } \{x : x < 6\}$$

Addition Property: The inequality formed by adding the same quantity to both sides of an inequality is equivalent to the original inequality:

$$x - 4 < 6$$

$$x - 4 + 4 < 6 + 4$$

$$x < 10$$

$$x + 5 \geq 12$$

$$x + 5 + (-5) \geq 12 + (-5)$$

$$x \geq 7$$

Multiplication Property The inequality formed by multiplying both sides of an inequality by the same *positive* quantity is equivalent to the original inequality. The direction of the inequality is flipped when multiplying by a *negative* quantity:

$$\frac{1}{3}x > 6$$

$$3\left(\frac{1}{3}x\right) > 3(6)$$

$$x > 18$$

$$5x - 5 \leq 6x + 20$$

$$-x \leq 25$$

$$x \geq -25$$

Example. Solve

$$-x + 8 \leq 2x - 4$$

first by gathering the x variable on the left, then again on the right. See that the multiplication property holds in both cases.

